

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035605

22

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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FOR BOEKER, FROM UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, ECON

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT: INTERACTION OF
POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LDCS.

1. AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN, COORDINATOR OF POPULATION
AFFAIRS IN HIS MEMO OF DECEMBER 10, 1975, TO ME (YOU HAVE
A COPY IN YOUR BRIEFING BOOK) SUGGESTED OUR DELEGATION
TO THE COMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE

INTERACTION OF POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
HE INCORPORATED A NUMBER OF PRO AND CON ARGUMENTS, TALKING
POINTS AND IBRD STUDIES, EXCERPTS ON STUDIES IN HIS MEMO.

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PAGE 02 STATE 035605

2. WE NOW HAVE MORE CURRENT DATA FROM THE IBRD WHICH

SHOWS THE DEGREE TO WHICH HIGH RATES OF POPULATION GROWTH HAVE VITIATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN A NUMBER OF LDCE. PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE ARE LOWER GNP PER CAPITA GROWTH RATES IN A NUMBER OF ASIAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES. BUT ALSO IN SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE, MEXICO AND ECUADOR. OBVIOUSLY, HIGH POPULATION GROWTH RATES PER SE ARE NOT THE ONLY FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO LOWER PER CAPITA GNP PERCENTAGE INCREASES. POOR HARVESTS IN PREDOMINANTLY AGRICULTURAL COUNTRIES, SHARPLY DECLINING COMMODITY PRICES IN CROP OR OTHER MONO-ECONOMIES, OR LOWERED INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT COULD BE FACTORS IN DECREASING RATES OF PER CAPITA GNP GROWTH. HOWEVER, WE ARE

CONVINCED THAT FOR MANY LDCE EXCESSIVELY HIGH POPULATION GROWTH RATES ABSORB FROM 1/2 TO 2/3 OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND NEARLY 100 OF FOOD ASSISTANCE.

3. RECENT UNPUBLISHED DATA (THESE FIGURES ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO THOSE IN THE TABLE ON PAGE 7 OF TAB 3 OF THE DRAFT MEMO IN YOUR BRIEFING BOOK) FROM THE IBRD SHOWS THAT PER CAPITA GNP CONTINUES TO GROW SLOWLY OR DECLINE IN MANY COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MAJOR RECIPIENTS OF U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IN SOME CASES THE LOW OR DECLINING PER CAPITA GNP GROWTH RATES HAVE RESULTED DESPITE COMMENDABLE INITIATIVES IN EXPANDING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. SOME EXAMPLES:

GROWTH RATES PERCENT

	POPULATION		GNP/CAPITA	
	1960-73	1965-73	1960-73	1965-73
ALGERIA	3.2	3.4	1.7	4.3
ARGENTINA	1.5	1.5	2.7	2.9
BANGLADESH	2.6	2.4	-0.2	-1.6
BRAZIL	2.9	2.9	3.6	6.0
CAMEROON	2.0	2.0	3.2	4.9
COLOMBIA	2.9	2.8	2.4	3.1
EGYPT	2.5	2.5	1.5	0.8

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PAGE 03 STATE 035605

ETHIOPIA	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.6
INDIA	2.3	2.3	1.3	1.5
INDONESIA	2.0	2.1	2.4	4.5
JAMAICA	1.6	1.4	3.6	4.8
MEXICO	3.5	3.5	3.3	2.8
MOROCCO	2.4	2.4	1.6	2.5
NIGERIA	2.5	2.5	3.6	8.3
PAKISTAN	2.9	2.9	3.4	2.5

PERU	2.9	2.9	2.1	1.8
PHILIPPINES	3.0	3.0	2.3	2.6
THAILAND	3.1	3.0	4.8	4.5
VENEZUELA	3.4	3.3	2.0	1.3
YUGOSLAVIA	1.0	0.9	5.1	6.0
ZAIRE	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.9

4. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE COMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH THESE MATTERS AT THE EARLIEST FEASIBLE OPPORTUNITY. IT SEEMS TO ME THEY GO TO THE HEART OF THE ISSUE OF HOW BEST WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE ENHANCED STANDARDS OF LIVING THROUGH MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

THEREFORE, WE LOOK TO THE COMMISSION AS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM TO DISCUSS THEM.

5. I WILL LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE RAISED DURING THIS SESSION AND IF SO HOW BEST TO RAISE IT, KEEPING IN MIND, HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANCE I ASCRIBE TO IT. IT MAY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR THE U.S. ITSELF TO INTERVENE ON THIS SUBJECT; THEREFORE I SUGGEST YOU EXPLORE POSSIBILITY WITH PAKISTAN. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE TO PROMPT CANADA, THE EEC, JAPAN AND/OR SWEDEN TO INTERVENE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. SISCO

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